

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
OLYMPIA, WA**

To:	All Prescribers Pharmacies Managed Care Plans Regional Administrators CSO Administrators	Memorandum No. 02-62 MAA Issued: July 1, 2002 Updates: 01-73 MAA
From:	Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary Medical Assistance Administration	For more information, call: 1-800-562-6188
Subject:	Therapeutic Consultation Service (TCS) Update	

Effective February 1, 2002, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) implemented the Therapeutic Consultation Service (TCS) for prescribers per WAC 388-530-1260. This memorandum describes the addition of a **Voluntary Preferred Drug List** in TCS and provides further program guidance.

Overview of TCS

MAA provides a complete drug profile review for each client when a drug claim for that client triggers a TCS. The purpose of TCS is to facilitate the appropriate and cost-effective use of prescription drugs. MAA-designated clinical pharmacists review profiles in consultation with the prescriber or the prescriber's designee by telephone.

TCS occurs when a drug claim:

- Exceeds four brand name prescriptions per calendar month; or
- Is for a nonpreferred drug within MAA's selected therapeutic classes (see MAA's Preferred Drug List on page two of this memorandum). **This does not apply to the Voluntary Preferred Drug List.**

When a pharmacy provider submits a claim that exceeds the TCS limitations for a client, MAA generates a Point-of-Sale (POS) computer alert to notify the pharmacy provider that a TCS review is required. The computer alert provides a toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504] for the prescriber or prescriber's designee to call.

Drugs excluded from the four brand name prescription per calendar month review:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Antidepressants | • HIV medications |
| • Antipsychotics | • Immunosuppressants |
| • Anticonvulsants | • Hypoglycemia rescue agents |
| • Chemotherapy | • Generic drugs |
| • Contraceptives | |

MAA's Preferred Drug List as of February 1, 2002

Selected Therapeutic Drug Class	Preferred Drug(s)
Histamine H2 Receptor Antagonist (H2RA)	Ranitidine
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)	Protonix® or generic omeprazole (when available)

Voluntary Preferred Drug List

The following drug classes are voluntary preferred drugs that will be suggested to prescribers during TCS review. Non-preferred drugs in these drug classes will not trigger a review unless the request is the fifth request for a brand name drug in a calendar month.

Selected Therapeutic Drug Class	Preferred Drug(s)
Non-sedating antihistamines	Allegra® or generic loratidine (when available)
Statin-type cholesterol-lowering agents	LDL lowering $\leq 30\%$ = generic lovastatin LDL lowering $\geq 31\%$ through 40% = Zocor® (first choice) or Lipitor® (second choice) LDL lowering $\geq 41\%$ = Lipitor®. Pravachol® may be used when drug-drug interactions with concurrent drug therapy are likely (gemfibrozil, protease inhibitors)
Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors	Generic captopril, enalapril and lisinopril

Important Reminders:

- Physicians may have their designee call (866) 246-8504 for TCS consultations.
- Physicians or their designees may call for TCS consultations during the following time periods (Pacific Time):

Monday through Friday	8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am to 1:00 pm
- If the TCS review cannot take place because the prescriber or prescriber's designee is unavailable, the pharmacy provider has the option to dispense an emergency supply of the requested drug. (Refer to MAA's Prescription Drug Program Billing Instructions for further information regarding emergency dispensing.)
- Pharmacy staff must call 1-866-246-8504 for authorization to fill prescriptions written by emergency room physicians that trigger the TCS edits. Do not ask emergency room physicians to call TCS.
- As drugs are added to the Preferred Drug List, their Expedited Prior Authorization (EPA) codes are no longer valid.
- Prescribers are requested to provide their DEA numbers to pharmacies.
- Pharmacists are requested to include the prescriber's DEA number on all MAA pharmacy claims. Beginning July 1, 2002, all claims for Schedule II drugs without a DEA number will be denied.
- Prescriptions for clients residing in skilled nursing facilities are not subject to TCS triggers. However, the clients' drug profile may be retrospectively reviewed.

Pharmacy Requirements:

- The pharmacy provider must notify the prescriber that the prescriber or prescriber's designee must call the TCS toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504] to begin a TCS review. Emergency room physicians are not to be contacted; pharmacy staff must call TCS instead.

Prescriber Provider Requirements:

- When the pharmacy provider contacts the client's prescriber, the prescriber or prescriber's designee must call the TCS toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504)] to begin a TCS review.
- After the prescriber or prescriber's designee and the MAA-designated clinical pharmacist review the client's drug profile and discuss clinically sound options and cost-effective alternative drug(s), the prescriber(s) may choose to do one of the following:
 - ✓ Change the prescription to an alternative drug or preferred drug and contact the client's pharmacy with the new prescription; or
 - ✓ Provide the MAA designee with the medical justification and continue with the brand-name drug; or
 - ✓ Not agree to prescribe an alternative drug or preferred drug and does not provide medical justification for the requested drug. In this case:
 - The MAA designee authorizes a one-month supply of the requested drug with no refills and sends the initiating prescriber a copy of the client's drug profile and a therapy authorization turnaround form.
 - The prescriber signs the therapy authorization turnaround form and returns it to the MAA designee.
 - Upon receipt of the therapy authorization turnaround form, the MAA designee authorizes the prescription for up to 12 months, depending on the legal life of the prescription.



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